



Robert E. Bush
Naval Hospital

Did you know?...

You have the right to express your concerns about patient safety and quality of care.

There are several avenues open to you:

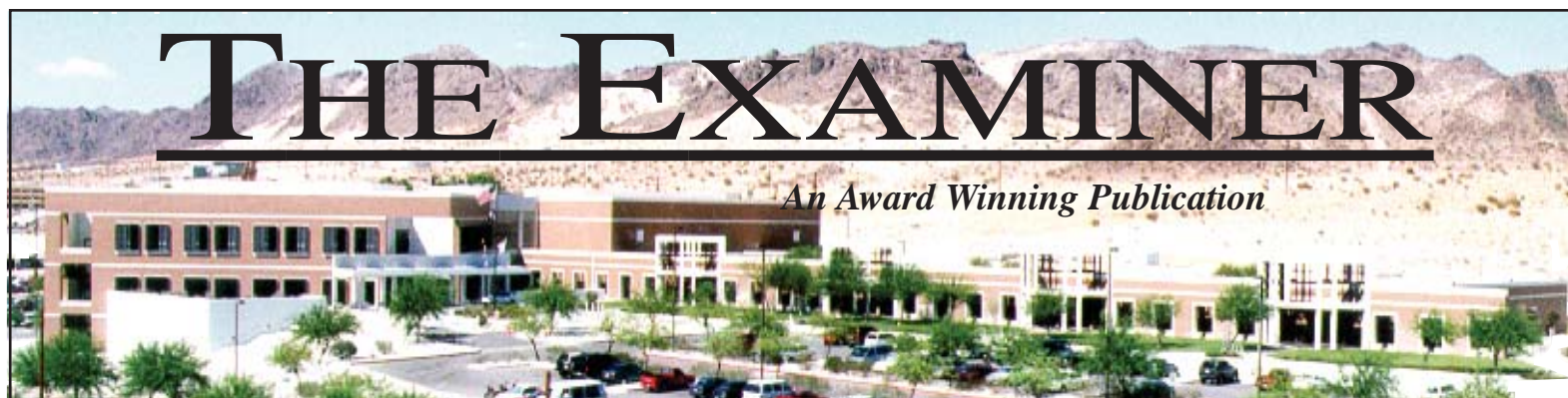
- * Through the ICE website.
- * The Hospital Customer Relations Officer at 760-830-2475, or any of the Customer Relations representatives in the Hospital clinics, or directly to the Joint Commission via: E-mail at complaint@jointcommission.org Fax: 630-792-5636

The Joint Commission
Oak Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

To report Fraud, Waste and Abuse contact one of the below offices by calling:

Naval Hospital: 760-830-2344
Combat Center: 760-830-7749
NavMedWest: 1-877-479-3832
Medical IG: 1-800-637-6175
DoD IG: 1-800-424-9098

Commanding Officer
Naval Hospital Public Affairs Office
Box 788250 MAGTF TC
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8250



<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhttp/pages/default.aspx>

NHTP Ranks in Top 10 Percent for Customer Service

Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms was recognized for "commanding excellence in customer service." A Letter of Appreciation signed by Rear Adm. B.L. Gillingham, Deputy Chief of Readiness and Health, states: "For commanding excellence in Customer Service from 1 September 2016 to 31 December 2016, which led to Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms ranking in the top 10 percent nationally for patients recommending the hospital in the TRICARE Inpatient Satisfaction Survey...."

"This facility is the finest facility in the entire Department of Defense chain. I haven't moved from California because of Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms."

--Mark Cain
U.S. Army Sergeant Major (Ret.),
Nurse Practitioner
Yucca Valley, Calif.



Five new Navy Chiefs stepped smartly into a new phase of their careers following the FY 18 Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony in the MCAGCC Protestant Chapel September 16. HMC Daniel Gonzalez, HMC Jenna Uhrich, HMC Dave Domantay, HMC Steven Piedrahita and HMC Katrina Caines were pinned with Chief's anchors by family members and colleagues. Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (Ret.) Kevin Bittinger was the guest speaker.

Adobe Cafe Wants to Go Green But Needs Your Help

By Lt. Michael Kantar, NHTP Nutrition Management Department Head

The Adobe Cafe wants to reduce plastic waste. It's a team effort that will require Adobe Cafe patrons to do their part. What's your part? Consider dining in rather than tossing another styrofoam container into the trash.

Have you ever thought about where that Styrofoam container ends up? A July 2017 National Geographic article refers to a South Pacific plastic patch larger than Mexico. It's not all bottles, bags and Styrofoam containers. Most of this plastic has

broken down into bite-size bits, that fish are eating. This is more

than a pollution problem. Fish are in the human food chain; so it's also a contamination problem.

As a command we produce a significant amount of waste. Some of which is ecologically friendly, while most of it is not.

Styrofoam, ranks as being the second worst pollutant to the environment.

Based on local market research, replacing the Styrofoam and plastic

utensils with environmentally-friendly products would raise the cost of these products by well over 200 percent, a cost increase that is not fiscally viable.

We are putting out a call to diners: Help us reduce the amount of plastic waste. Choose to either dine in (dining room or patio) or make a conscious decision to reduce your Styrofoam and plastic utensil use.

We value your ideas. If you have suggestions for reducing waste, particularly Styrofoam, please send your ideas to michael.kantar.mil@mail.mil.



Another Styrofoam takeout container is passed to a customer at the Adobe Cafe. Approximately 150 takeout containers are used daily. According to Harvard researchers, a single polystyrene coffee cup can take up to 500 years to break down.

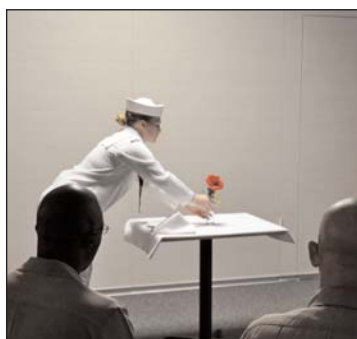
National POW/MIA Recognition Day was observed with great reverence, respect and solemnity by the NHTP Junior Enlisted Association Sept. 28 in Classroom 5.



NHTP Commanding Officer, Capt. Nadjmeh Hariri offered opening remarks. Hospital Corpsman Third Class Michelle Bowles was Master of Ceremonies.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Maquis Thomas.



Personal Specialist Rachel Dietz.



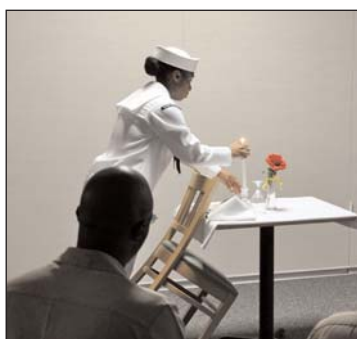
Hospitalman Joshua Creech.



Hospitalman Jomar Jean.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Anthony Winsor.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Christina Keithley.



"Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice."



"You are not forgotten."



Peace Lutheran Church donated 68 layettes September 27, their largest donation yet. The Palm Desert Church has been making twice annual donations since 2009. "We enjoy doing it; and there's a lot of love involved," said Donna Chilman. The layettes are delivered to the Maternal Infant Nursing Department and distributed to families with new babies. Hospitalman Leslie Mahrer, who helped take delivery of the layettes noted that she had received one after delivering her baby. "It was awesome," she said. Pictured, L-R: Capt. Jeffrey Bledsoe, John Rockwood, Pastor Norville Chilman, Chaplain Albert Perez, Charlotte Spielberger, Donna Chilman, HN Leslie Mahrer and Hospital Corpsman Third Class Dylan Beck.

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Executive Officer

Capt. Patrick K. Amersbach, NC, USN

Command Master Chief

HCMC (SW/AW/FMF) Jerry Ramey, USN

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Department in the Spotlight: Mental/Deployment Health

By Lt. Cmdr. Starla Lyles, Psychiatrist, Mental Health/Deployment Health Department Head

Department in the Spotlight: Mental Health Department

- Department Head: Lt. Cmdr. Starla Lyles
- Number of Officers: 9
- Number of Corpsmen: 4
- Number of GS Employees: 1
- Number of Contractors: 15
- Lead Petty Officer: HM3 Dyresha McKay
- Average number of patients seen per day: 50 (including scheduled appointments and walk-ins).

If Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms were a maritime ship, the Mental Health Department would be considered the “crow’s nest,” a lookout point warning

against approaching hazards and rocky shores. The mental health team intervenes and assists during service members’ most challenging times in life, whether during times of marital stress, occupational strain, substance use, and so on.

The Mental Health Department provides services and guidance facilitating the development of healthy coping strategies, behavioral changes, and command support to navigate through life’s stormy waters.

The Mental Health Department consists of the Mental Health Clinic, Deployment Health Injury Clinic, and the Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic. Services offered include individual and group therapy, psychotropic medica-

tion management, pre- and post-deployment screenings, concussion care, and more.

In the summer of 2016, the department moved into the new Adult Medical Care Clinic (AMCC) allowing for a closer relationship with the Battalion Medical Officers and the Regimental Surgeon. Recent highlights include contributing to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center’s annual Suicide Symposium for Commanders, held on September 19, and hosted by the Marine Corps Counseling Center. The symposium represented a collaboration of psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical social workers, and chaplains--who elaborated on decreasing the stigma of mental health in the Marine Corps cul-

ture, ancillary services available to the installation, and highlighting upcoming initiatives to improve the safety of service members in crisis pending transport to inpatient mental-health facilities.

Future initiatives and items of focus include advances in care collaboration with Medical Home Port (primary care) to extend prescription services for dependent care. Recently, the Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic extended care to dependents of active-duty members, 16 years of age and older. This includes medical clearance following a concussion and access to neuropsychological testing and a staff neurologist.

The Deployment Health Clinic ensures medical readiness and recently implemented the new

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electronic Periodic Health Assessment (e-PHA). This endeavor entails assessment of 1,500 service members from Headquarters Battalion, MCTOG, MCLOG, MCESS (permanent staff), and NHTP, requiring records review annually to ensure medical readiness and deployment preparation.

The Mental Health Department at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms ((760) 830-2724), is open to active duty members, Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., for walk-in, urgent, and routine visits. For service members in crisis after hours, emergent services are available at the NHTP Emergency Room.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255.



First row L-R: Lt. Cmdr. Starla Lyles, Dr. Richard Ellsworth, Ms. April Cruz, Ms. Marcy Cohn, Ms. Leslie Belt, Lt. Nicole Kang; 2nd row: HM3 Armando Sosa, Ms. Monalisa Infante, Ms. Sandra Foshee, Ms. Jill Colburn, Ms. Susan Kent, Ms. Jenei Dariano, HM3 Dyresha McKay, Dr. Frederick Blum, Dr. Robin Ellis, Mr. Rubin Rios; Back row: Lt. Cmdr. William Johnson, Mr. Paul De Waard, Mr. Fernando Bobadilla, Lt. Cmdr. John Hoyos, Mr. Thomas Teleha. Not pictured: Capt. Anthony Arita, Cmdr. Patricia Miller, Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Cruz, Lt. Cmdr. Monica Delano, Lt. Chelsey Flohe, HM3 Julio Garcia, HN Stephanie Blubaugh, Dr. Roxana Farinpour.



Hospital Corpsman Second Class Michael Spencer and Hospital Corpsman Second Class Mercedes Maebane man the Suicide Awareness and Prevention display during the NHTP Community Health Fair Sept. 21.

Awardees...

The following awards were presented during the First Friday Award Ceremony, September 1, 2017, in NHTP Classrooms 4 & 5. Hospital Commanding Officer, Capt. Nadjmeh Hariri, was the presenting officer with Executive Officer (acting) Capt. Jeffrey Bledsoe and Command Master Chief Jerry Ramey.



Lt. Cmdr. Amelia Buttolph is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.



Mr. Stephen Crowder is presented with a Federal Length of Service Award, "in grateful recognition and appreciation for your 15 years of faithful service to the federal government."



Hospitalman Justin Depergola is presented with a Letter of Commendation. "Your technical expertise was exemplary during 11 obstetric emergencies, two neonatal emergencies, and two cardiac arrests that resulted in the delivery of world-class care."



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Julius Nvalta is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Hospital Corpsman First Class Diana Rudolf is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.



Hospitalman Clayton Echimovich is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Hospitalman Justin Geier is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Hospitalman Jose Kajatt is presented with a Letter of Commendation. "You displayed a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the fine calibration of the newborn hearing screening machine and the performance of 756 hearing screenings with minimal to no discrepancies."



The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's 175th birthday was celebrated on the NHTP Quarterdeck August 31. L-R: Holly Aquilar, NHTP Senior Civilian of the Year; Lt. Conrad Chou, Dental Corps; Hospitalman Brenden Wyatt, Hospital Corps; Lt. Alexandria Ford, Medical Corps; Amanda Cervantes, NHTP Junior Civilian of the Year; Ensign Rachel Meza, Nurse Corps; Lt. j.g Lester Vidal, Medical Service Corps.



Surgical Tech Week was celebrated with cake and congratulatory remarks outside the surgery suite Sept. 21. "I'm honored to be your leader. We couldn't do this without you," said Director for Surgical Services, Lt. Cmdr. Lacy Gee. L-R: Hospitalman Joshua Herrin, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Michael Spencer, Hospitalman Tyler Graham, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Vittorio Garcia, Hospitalman Cesar Garcia and Hospital Corpsman Third Class Marquis Thomas. Hospital Commanding Officer, Capt. Nadjmeh Hariri noted that surgical techs "are the backbone of the OR."



Introducing New Staff -- Welcome Aboard!



HM3 Donavon Miller

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Donavon Miller arrived from U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, Italy, where he worked as a physical therapy tech for the past three years. He's been in the Navy for six years. Hometown is Chicago, Illinois. He chose to become a Corpsman out of an appreciation for the scope of work and the customer service. His goal is to earn his physical therapy assistant licensure and eventually earn a doctorate in physical therapy. Naples was great," he said. He especially enjoyed being able to travel on weekends. "I visited approximately 24 countries," he said, naming Croatia, Germany, Spain and Portugal. HM3 Miller gained an appreciation for the various cultures throughout Europe. He drove here from Chicago and was impressed with the change of scenery as he drove west. Hobbies involve his love of travel. He plans to hike the trails in Joshua Tree. He also enjoys reading a good mystery, either fiction or non-fiction.



YNSN DeAwna Pretlow

Yeoman Seaman DeAwna Pretlow wanted a career in administrative work. She had a hair-stylist position, "but that wasn't a lifetime job," she said. She had earned her Bachelor's degree in accounting (Wilberforce University) and a Master's in Business Administration (DeVry University), but still had trouble finding a position that fit her skill set. So she joined the Navy. Pretlow enjoyed the training she received at the Naval Technical Training Center (Yeoman "A" school) in Meridian, Mississippi. "I enjoyed learning the craft of a Navy Yeoman in its entirety," she said. New to the West Coast and the high desert, Pretlow said she was taken aback by the desert, the mountains and the overall brown color of the landscape. But the Navy barracks was a pleasant relief. "The barracks are a comfort zone. It reminds me of college," she said. For recreation, Pretlow enjoys reading (*48 Laws of Power*, *Forensic Accounting*) and playing sudoku.



Ms. Jessica Redding

Ms. Jessica Redding arrived from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where she was an emergency-room nurse. She earned her RN degree from Seattle University in her hometown, Seattle. While earning her degree, Redding met a civilian EMT who brought patients to her emergency room. Now, that EMT is a Corpsman on the Multi-Service Ward; and his wife, Jessica Redding, has a position in the NHTP ER. "He had the idea to join the Navy before I met him; and I thought that was pretty cool," Redding said. Jessica drove cross country with her mother and a six-month old puppy. She and her husband moved into off-base housing at the beginning of summer, when temperatures hovered around 115 degrees; and the swamp cooler promptly broke. It's all worked out. Redding is impressed with the "family" aspect of the NHTP Emergency Medicine Department. Hobbies include hiking as a couple with their dogs and going to the beach as much as possible.



HMCS Glenn Bagamaspad

Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Glenn Bagamaspad arrived from Yokosuka, Japan, where he was Battleforce 7th Fleet Independent Duty Corpsman, working directly under Rear Adm. Charles Williams. He was there for four and a half years and loved it. HMCS Bagamaspad has been in the Navy 22 years. Hometown is the San Fernando Valley in greater Los Angeles. He credits his brother for his decision to join the Navy. His brother had joined 18 months earlier, had recruitment duty in Los Angeles, and invited his younger brother to visit him at the recruiting office. He and his brother, a fellow hospital Corpsman, served two tours together, in Bremerton and at Bethesda. Bagamaspad is here with his wife and four children and will be Senior Enlisted Leader for Branch Clinics. Bagamaspad earned a degree in Health Sciences from Trident University. For hobbies, he enjoys shooting, photography, drones, cart racing, hiking and sports.



CS2 Judy Holcomb

Culinary Specialist Second Class Judy Holcomb arrived from Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard where she prepared maintenance briefs for ships. Previous to that assignment, she spent three years on the USS Halsey (DLG-23), starting out as a cook-on-watch, which led to galley-watch captain, then baker and eventually records keeper. She enjoyed being a baker best. Holcomb has been in the Navy for nine years. Hometown is Winters, Texas. She originally enlisted as a cryptologic technician but found herself in an over-manned year group and was looking at separation. She took it upon herself to research options, and found the culinary-specialist rating. She originally signed up for the education benefits and ability to see the world, as well as serving her country. Now, in her first shore assignment, she plans to attend college and pursue business management with the end goal of opening her own restaurant. Holcomb is here with her husband and two children.



Information Systems Technologist Third Class Austin Boon reenlisted for two more years Sept. 8. Hometown is Knoxville, Tennessee. Boon has been in the Navy for four years. Lt. Christopher Skirvin was the reenlisting officer.



Hospital Corpsman Second Class Daniel Dobrick reenlisted for four more years Sept. 8. Hometown is Phelan, California. Dobrick has been in the Navy for nine years. Reenlisting officer was Lt. Cmdr. Markeece Murriel.



Chief Hospital Corpsman Madonna Macnight was presented with her Desert Rat Certificate from Cmdr. Mark Lang during her going away luncheon Sept. 14. Macnight was also awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. Macnight departed for duty aboard the USNS Mercy (TA-19).



Lt. Cmdr. William Michael's wife pins a golden oak leaf onto his collar, commensurate with his new rank, following a Sept. 1 promotion ceremony. Michael is a staff physician in the Family Medicine Clinic.

Awards

Promotions

Reenlistments



Hospital Corpsman First Class Joshua Lukacovic reenlisted for six more years Sept. 29. Hometown is St. Augustine, Florida. Lukacovic has been in the Navy for 14 years. Reenlisting Officer was Capt. Jeffrey Bledsoe.



Capt. Roger Bunch was promoted during a Sept. 7 ceremony on the NHTP Quarterdeck. His daughter and wife apply the new shoulder boards reflecting his current rank.



Morning Colors, September 11, 2017.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Christopher San Miguel reenlisted for three more years Sept. 1. Hometown is Odessa, Texas. Capt. Jeffrey Bledsoe was the reenlisting officer.

